“Amelia Earhart: Life and Disappearance”

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By Watchmojo

She is the most famous female pilot in history. Welcome to Watchmojo.com and today we will be learning more about the life and accomplishments of Amelia Earhart.

Born July 24th, 1897, in Atchison, Kansas, Earhart first became interested in air travel after witnessing a flying exhibition by an ace pilot in her late teens. In 1920, she and her father took a trip to an airfield for a 10-minute flight. Following this, she took odd jobs to earn the money to pay for flying lessons, which she finally began on January 3rd, 1921.

To fit in with other female pilots, Earhart chopped off her hair and donned a worn leather jacket which fit with her tomboy image. By October of 1922, she was already setting records, becoming the first woman to fly to fourteen thousand feet. Finally on May 15th, 1923, she was issued her pilot’s license, making her only the sixteenth woman to have one.

While she was admired by some as a preeminent female pilot, others merely qualified her skill as adequate. Either way, she had amassed an impressive 500 unaccompanied flying hours by 1927.

After Charles Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic in 1927, Earhart was approached to be the first woman to do so. Though she did not actually pilot the plane, her trip was successful and she and her team were greeted with great fanfare upon their return to the United States. Following this triumph, Earhart’s celebrity grew, and she signed on to write a book, go on speaking tours and endorse various products.

In August of 1928, she became the first woman to fly across North America and back. It was also around this time that Earhart was proposed to by George P. Putnam, who had helped plan and promote her trans-Atlantic flight. The two were finally married on February 7th, 1931.

It was the next year at the age of 34 that she successfully flew solo non-stop across the Atlantic. She set a number of other records, both as a woman and as a pilot. But her biggest triumph was to be a flight across the world in 1937. After a first attempt in March failed, a second attempt was planned for June. Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan

departed on the first of the month, finally arriving in New Guinea on June 29th. Seven thousand miles remained on the flight, all of it over the Pacific Ocean.

Departing from New Guinea three days later, the aviators planned to land on Howland Island. However upon their approach, the pair was unable to locate the island and was running low on gas. After a number of voice transmissions from the aircraft, contact was eventually lost. An official search began almost immediately, and Putnam also funded a search of the area, but ultimately she remained lost. On January 5th, 1939 Amelia Earhart was declared legally dead.

For years, mystery has surrounded Earhart's disappearance. Conspiracy theorists have suggested the possibility that she was a spy, or assumed a new identity. She may have crashed in the ocean, or she may have landed on a different island and ultimately perished. No matter what her fate, her legacy lives on as a central figure in the effort to bring air travel into the public consciousness, and as a pioneer for women's issues.